

Wycombe Wanderers 6, Maidenhead United 1

A SPARKLING display of attacking football by Wycombe Wanderers, on a saturated Loakes Park pitch on Tuesday evening, routed Maidenhead United in the quarter-finals of the Berks and Bucks Senior Cup.

Before the game, the Magpies might have fancied their chances of upsetting the odds against a Wanderers team who must have had their minds on their FA Trophy replay against Blyth on Saturday. If that was the case, Wycombe did not let it show.

In atrocious conditions, Wycombe carved holes in a ponderous looking Maidenhead defence with a sharp, positive and, at times, exhilarating performance which had even the locals — fed on a staple diet of success for years — enthusing.

From the moment they took the lead after 17 minutes from the penalty spot, Wycombe looked in control. Maidenhead played as well as they were allowed and put together a number of good moves. But it was simply not enough against a top-class non-League side close to the peak of their form.

PINNED BACK

Wanderers started in a determined mood and pinned the Magpies back on the defensive. During the first 15 minutes they forced several corners as Maidenhead struggled to break out of their own half. The Magpies' first goal attempt came after 15 minutes when a Steve Palfrey free kick was headed over by Derek Harris. Two minutes later Mick Holifield threaded his way into the box only to be brought down by a dual Maidenhead challenge. Referee Mr. D. Keen of Reading immediately pointed to the spot for what looked a slightly harsh decision, although few could deny that Wycombe deserved to be in front by that stage.

Howard Kennedy sent goalkeeper Ian Bath the wrong way with his penalty conversion.

Far from resting on their laurels, Wycombe quickly resumed their attacking style and added a second goal after

20 minutes. From a corner, taken short, Terry Scott ran to the edge of the box before curling a cross towards the far post. Both sets of players failed to make contact with the ball, which continued curling and finished tamely in the back of the net.

Two goals down before they had really woken up — that was the Magpies' sad plight. To their credit, they kept playing football and carved out a couple of openings. But Wycombe brushed aside their efforts with contempt and made it 3-0 after 36 minutes.

It came after a corner from Scott, which was nodded on by Steve Hardwick, and bundled in by Mark Judd past

Metropolitan Police at York Rd

Maidenhead United are home to Metropolitan Police in the Isthmian League tomorrow (Saturday) and away to Wembley on Tuesday.

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a statuesque Maidenhead defence who seemed transfixed by the speed of the move.

For a while, Wycombe's appetite was temporarily satisfied and Maidenhead were allowed a couple of excursions into the Wanderers penalty area at the end of the half. After 43 minutes Alan Cordice got round the back of the defence on the left and crossed into the middle. Micky Tripp and Harris each had a chance to score but Peter Spittle and Keith Mead combined to deny them.

Moments before the interval the Magpies were awarded a free kick in a central position 25 yards out. Tripp tapped it to Mick Chatterton who lashed a powerful drive into the net via a post.

The Magpies, revived by the goal, started the second half strongly and rocked Wanderers back on their heels for 10 minutes. With 48 minutes gone, Harris had a shot blocked from a good

position. Seven minutes later the same player headed a cross from Alan Cordice goalwards but straight at Spittle.

After 60 minutes, Stewart Atkins broke through the middle for Wycombe and seemed certain to score. Despite being fouled by Steve Green, he carried on, rounded Bath and slotted home. Unfortunately for Atkins, the referee had already decided to give the foul and disallowed the effort.

This decision was only a temporary reprieve for the Magpies because Kennedy rifled the free kick home from 20 yards.

Player-manager Geoff Anthony decided to bring himself on, in place of right-back Steve Palfrey, soon afterwards in an effort to reduce the arrears. This move, however, left a large gap on the left wing for Wycombe which they exploited.

After 78 minutes substitute Dylan Evans scored with only his third touch after a break by Steve Long. Bath fumbled Long's cross and Evans was on hand to stab the rebound home.

Two minutes later Long made it six when he cracked home a close range first time shot into the roof of the net.

While the Magpies finished well beaten, they kept going forward till the final whistle and certainly did not play as badly as the score line suggests. Credit should also go to the Maidenhead supporters who, at the final whistle, were still shouting their Wycombe rivals despite the hopelessness of their team's position.

Wycombe Wanderers: Spittle, Hardwick, Priestley, Mead, Phillips, Reed, Atkins, Holifield, Judd, Kennedy, Scott. Subs — Long, Evans.

Maidenhead United: Bath, Palfrey, Mason, Green, Chatterton, Tripp, Gosnell, Cowlishaw, Harris, G. Cordice, A. Cordice. Subs — Anthony, Jedrzejczak.